Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are also free to set up the LPG distributorship and Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations in all the States.

Social welfare schemes of Oil PSUs

2740. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PSUs under his Ministry have taken up activities related to welfare and economic development of SCs/ STs and other weaker sections residing in neighbourhood of projects; and

(b) if so, the details of such activities undertaken during the last three years, year-wise and PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Oil PSUs have been undertaking various activities related tothe welfare and socio-economic development of weaker sections residing in the neighbourhood of project locations through Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan. These activities of oil PSUs during the last three years were by and large same in different parts of the country, which are as under:—

(i) Construction of community latrines on the lines of Sulabh Shouchalaya etc., in villages inhabited mainly by SCs/ STs and weaker sections of the society.

(ii) Construction of school/college buildings, scholarships, adult education, distribution of teaching materials, establishing library and other aid to SC/ST students.

(iii) Financial assistance to SC/ST women through co-operative societies for providing facilities of handlooms, weaving, etc., so as to enable them to have self employment.

(iv) Provision of drinking water facility to nearby villages through ring wells/tubewells etc.

(v) Provision of community health facilities, free medical services, medicines through medical camp and family planning camps etc.

(vi) Financial assistance to Physically Handicapped persons for their rehabilitation.

(vii) Economic development/self employment by organising entrepreneurship development training programmes.

(viii) Vocational training/guidance to enable the SC/ST persons to become self-reliant under the scheme "Earn While You Learn". Training programmes are arranged in various trades, like basket making, weaving, coir rope making, sewing, poultry training, fishing, tailoring, typing, motor driving as well as supply of necessary tools, machines, etc.

(ix) Welfare programmes such as distribution of seeds and fertilizers free of cost of SC/ST farmers, distribution of smoke-less chulhas and solar cookers to SC/ST women and construction of approach roads and adoption of villages.

(x) Social forestry schemes like distribution of fruit bearing trees, saplings and other plants etc.

R and D on Bio-diesel

2741. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural waste lands is being used for Karanjia tree plantations to produce Bio-diesel, urja;

(b) whether any programme of research and development has been made in this regard; and

(c) by when the result is expected in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Plantation of trees, including bio-fuel plantations such as Jatropha Curcas,